



Murray Clan Society of NSW Newsletter

April 2014

www.murray-clan-nsw.net

PO Box 407
WINGHAM NSW 2429
Ph: 02 6555 9818

Email: murray46@gmail.com

Greetings one and all

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2014. This edition is a little shorter than usual but will be the last Newsletter sent out prior to our Annual Gathering in May, so please take note of the details.

Annual Dinner

As previously advised our 2014 **Annual Dinner** will be held in the Hibiscus Room at the Wingham Services Club on **Friday 30th May**. Our special guests will be the Rt Hon the 12th Earl and Countess of Dunmore, Viscount of Fincastle, Lord Murray of Blair, Moulin and Tillimett, Malcolm and Joy Murray. Malcolm is also the High Commissioner of the Murray Clan in Australia and New Zealand.

The function is being held in conjunction with the 10th Annual Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival (29th May to 1st June). A great deal of planning has gone into the evening and we would encourage you to make the effort to attend this year.

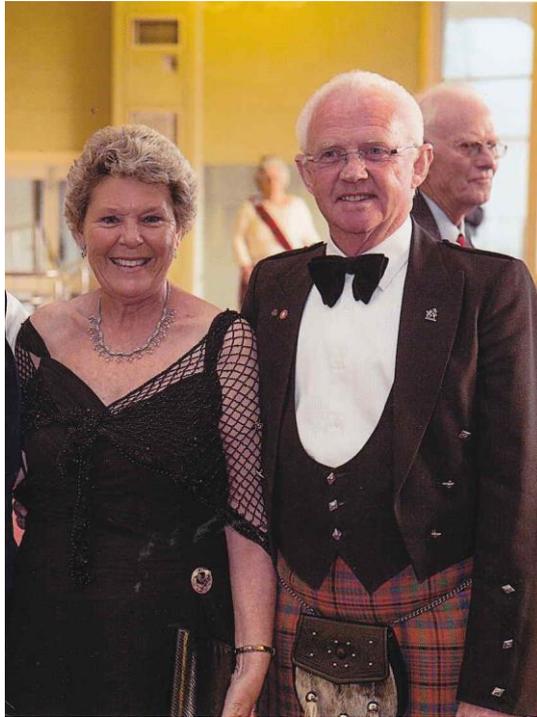
We have been able to keep the cost the same as last year (\$35 per person). Because the proprietors of the Hibiscus Room Restaurant will partitioning off as much as we need of the restaurant for our exclusive use, we will need to have definite numbers a little earlier than usual. We must have final numbers two weeks before the Dinner. **Would you please confirm your attendance no later than 16th May** (see booking slip at the end of this Newsletter).

The function will begin with the piping in of the Earl and Countess at 7.00pm. For those who can make it a little earlier, we will be holding our **Annual General Meeting at 6.00pm** at the same venue. It would be wonderful to have some input from the broader membership.

I repeat from last Newsletter this extract from the Earl's welcome to visitors to the Scottish Festival:

Joy and I once again feel very honoured to be invited back as guests to the Manning Valley Historical Society's 10th Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. We were delighted to be part of the 5th Scottish

Festival in 2009 along with the wonderful support of the Murray Clan of NSW members. We look forward to spending time with our clan during the festival and also look forward to meeting up once again with all our friends we made in 2009 and getting to know new friends who are proud of their Scottish Heritage.



Malcolm and Joy Murray, Earl and Countess of Dunmore

A special invitation has been extended to the members of the Paterson Easton Association to join us for the Dinner. We are planning to enjoy much more collaboration with the Paterson and Easton families in future activities. These families and the Murrays share a common Scottish background and have a long history of friendship and intermarriage.

The Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

As we mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Festival this year is a very special one, celebrating the 700th Anniversary of the Scottish victory at the Battle of Bannockburn, a terrible two-day battle between the forces of Robert the Bruce of Scotland and King Edward II of England. The battle took place on 23rd and 24th June 1314 at Bannockburn, near Stirling, and left thousands dead.

There will be many activities throughout the weekend. If you have hesitated in the past about coming to one of our Annual Dinners, this would be the year to visit.

For those Murrays who are coming to the Manning district for the whole weekend, you might be interested in a special **Bannockburn Luncheon** to be held on the Sunday (1st June). The luncheon is open to everyone, but a special feature will be a gathering of descendants of Robert the Bruce who will sit at special tables. They will also receive a special rosette to wear during the Festival and will be invited to march as a group in the street parade on Saturday 31st May. Any Bruce descendants who would like to attend the Festival should contact the committee member co-ordinating the Bruce gathering, Wade King, by email at

wmbaking@bigpond.com. Bookings for the Bannockburn Luncheon should be made through the historical society. All information about the Festival can be found at www.manninghistorical.org.

Here is the programme for the Festival:

Thursday 29th May

2.00pm Donna's Junior Shortbread School (95 Isabella St)

Friday 30th May

7.30am * Braveheart Poets' Breakfast (Anglican Church Hall)
10.00am* District Bus Tour (Wingham Historical Museum)
10.30am CWA Shortbread Baking Competition/Judging (CWA rooms in Isabella St)
Judging of Shop Window Displays (Town centre)
12 noon 9 Hole Clash of the Clans Mixed Golf Tournament (Wingham Golf Course)
12 noon Mixed Single Entry Social Bowls (Wingham Bowling Club)
5.30pm Mayoral Reception (Wingham Library)
7.00pm* Scots Night Out (Wingham Services Club)
Murray Clan Society of NSW Annual Dinner (Hibiscus Room, Wingham Services Club)

Saturday 31st May

9.00am Market and Clan stalls open (Central Park)
9.30am Street Parade Starts (Isabella St)
10.00am Opening Ceremony. Highland Games, Pipe Bands and Dancing begin (Central Park)
6.30pm* Cocktail Party (Wingham Services Club)
7.00pm* Grand Scottish Ball (Wingham Services Club)

Sunday 1st June

7.30am Lay led Thanksgiving Service and Blessing of the Banners (River Reserve)
8.00am * Barbecue Breakfast (River Reserve)
10.00am Colloquium of Clan and Celtic leaders (Tellers Restaurant)
12 noon* Bannockburn Lunch (Wingham Services Club)
2.00pm* Scottish Ceilidh/Concert (Wingham Town Hall)

All activities marked *should be booked ahead through Manning Valley Historical Society. Go to www.manninghistorical.org and follow the link to the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, where you will find a booking form. You need to book for the Murray Clan Dinner through us, but all other activities through the Historical Society.

Any Murrays who are in town for the Festival are warmly invited to take part in the Street Parade at 9.30am on the Saturday. Please meet at the Murray Tent in the park at 9.00am or at the start of the march. For those of us who are getting on a bit, you will be pleased to know that the Parade will follow a shorter route this year.

Last year the Murray Tent on the Saturday was a centre of frenetic activity as many visitors asked questions about where they “fitted in” to the vast family of Manning Murrays or simply dropped in for a chat. We look forward to seeing lots of you there again this year.

Please feel free to email or ring me if you have any questions about the programme. Contact details are at the top of the Newsletter.

Subscriptions – Good News

Our subscription rates have not changed for many years. They have been \$25 a calendar year for family membership and \$15 for individuals. From this year, we have **reduced the rate to \$10 per family and \$5 for individuals**. There are two main reasons for this:

1. Only a very small number of people have been paying subscriptions, which has meant that these few people bear the cost of running the Society. We hope that by reducing the rate, more members will be prepared to maintain their subscriptions and thus spread the load more evenly.
2. Some costs have been reduced, particularly postage and stationery costs because of the availability of email. However, insurance remains a compulsory expense and there are other incidental expenses, so we do need a reasonable number of subscriptions to remain viable. We still send out about 50 Newsletters by post each issue. If you receive this by post and you have an email address, please let me know.

When you book for the dinner, would you please consider adding this small additional amount to cover your subscription.

Payments

The easiest way to make payments to the Society is by bank transfer. Our bank account details are:

Account name: Murray Clan Society of NSW

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032590

Account number: 651482

We also accept cash or cheques, but not credit cards.

We remind you that the address of the Society is PO Box 407, Wingham NSW 2429.

Beatrice Longworth

In January this year the Clan lost one of its esteemed members, Beatrice “Trix” Longworth (nee Murray). Trix, with her late husband Keith, was a regular attender at our dinners for many years.

I first met Trix when I was a child visiting her bookshop, the Christian Literature Centre in Taree, which she operated from the 1950s to the early 70s, and enjoyed a lifelong friendship with her. I was very privileged to pay tribute to her at her funeral, and drew attention to her deep love for God

and her Church and her commitment to missions and other Christian causes. She influenced countless people throughout her long life and is remembered very fondly.

News re Jack Weekes

Jack Weekes, husband of long-serving committee member Jan, has been having a rough time in Sydney being treated for a cancer on the leg. It has been a prolonged and painful experience, complicated by a golden staph infection. Jack has had extensive surgery and there is more to go. Our thoughts are with Jan and Jack as they work through this difficult time together.

Alexander Lobban's Grave



Photo by kind permission of Australian Cemeteries Index

Alexander Lobban was a Scottish convict who became a successful farmer, philanthropist and churchman in the Wingham district. His daughter Margaret married George Murray of Pampoolah on the lower Manning River, so Lobban is an ancestor of a very large family of Murray descendants. He is buried in the picturesque cemetery at The Bight, across the river from the township of Wingham.

The magnificent gravestone, which records much of Lobban's life, has fallen over and broken, but one of our members, Warwick Murray, whose son Cameron is a qualified stonemason, is arranging to have it repaired and re-set. It is a significant item of local and family history and we look forward to its restoration.

The inscription on the grave reads:

"In memory of Alexander Lobban, native of Banffshire, Scotland, who departed this life at Parkhaugh, 30th January 1876 aged 73 years, and who for 26 years was a resident of the Manning district, the interests of which he always strove to promote, and for most of that time as an elder of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. He performed the duties of that office with a zeal guided by intelligence and sanctified by divine grace. Strong in faith, he was called to his rest leaving an example worthy of imitation as a loving husband, a tender father, a wise counsellor, a faithful friend, a sincere Christian, and in all the transactions of life an honourable man."

Website

As a matter of interest, our website at www.murray-clan-nsw.net averages between 5 and 30 visits per day.

Scottish Stories



1. At an art auction in Edinburgh, Scotland, a wealthy American lost his wallet containing £20,000. He announced to the gathering that that he would give a reward of £200 to the person who found it. From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, 'I'll give £250.'
2. Maître d'hôtel: 'Are you here for a special occasion?'
Campbell: 'Aye, we won the third prize in the annual Robert Burns Contest, a haggis dinner for two.'
Maître d'hôtel: 'What were the other prizes?'
Campbell: 'The second prize was a single haggis dinner, and, if you won the first prize, you didnae have to eat the haggis at all.'
3. A thoughtful Scotsman was heading out to the pub. He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, 'Jackie - put your hat and coat on lassie.'
She replied, 'Awe Iain that's nice - are you taking me to the pub with you?'
'Nah, I'm just switching the central heating off while I'm oot.'
4. Alisdair Biggar, a Scotsman, applied to join to the New York City police force.
The inspector glared at him and asked, 'How would you disperse a large, unruly crowd?'
'Well,' replied Alisdair thoughtfully, 'I'm no too sure how ye do it here in New York, but in Aberdeen we just pass the hat around, and they soon begin to shuffle off.'

See you on 30th May if you can make it.

Best wishes,

Ross

Annual Dinner Booking Slip

Please return this slip by email or by post to confirm your attendance at the Dinner. We must have this information by 16th May.

I /we will be attending the Murray Clan Society Annual Dinner on Friday, 30th May 2014.

Names:
.....

Method of Payment (\$35 per person) – Please circle correct responses:

- a) Payment is enclosed
- b) Payment has been transferred to the Society's Bank Account

Optional: Payment includes membership subscription of \$10 (family) / \$5 (individual).

By post: Murray Clan Society of NSW
PO Box 407
WINGHAM NSW 2429

By email: murrayr46@gmail.com